federal register

Wednesday
April 23, 1980

Part VII

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Office of Human Development Services

International Research, Training, and Dissemination Program; Announcement of Availability of Grant Funds

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Office of Human Development Services

[Program Announcement No. 13654-802]

International Research, Training, and Dissemination Program; Availability of Grant Funds

AGENCY: Office of Human Development Services, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (DHEW).

SUBJECT: Announcement of Availability of Grant Funds for an International Rehabilitation Research, Information and Training Center.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Handicapped Research announces that applications are being accepted from organizations wishing to compete for an International Rehabilitation Research, Information and Training Center grant authorized by Title II, Section 204(b)(5) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Regulations applicable to this program were published in the **Federal Register**, Subpart A and Subpart D of Part 1362, Chapter XIII of Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations (45 CFR Part 1362) on November 25, 1975. However, these regulations are currently undergoing revision and will appear as Notice of Proposed Rulemaking early in May 1980. These revised regulations will be applicable to all grants and continuation awards funded subsequent to the date of final issuance.

DATES: Closing date for receipt of applications is June 15, 1980.

Program Purpose

The general purpose of the Center is to fill gaps in U.S. rehabilitation knowledge through the dissemination of information that has been retrieved from other countries to appropriate sectors of the domestic and international rehabilitation communities. The Center is intended to (1) advance rehabilitation research on handicapping conditions, (2) improve rehabilitation methods, management and service delivery, and (3) benefit handicapped individuals around the world.

Program Goals and Objectives

The goal of this rehabilitation program priority is to establish an international research, information and training center which will facilitate the development and useful exchange of new methods and technology between the rehabilitation communities of the United States and other countries. Specific objectives of the program are:

1. The conduct of a program of rehabilitation research aimed at:

a. Developing new knowledge or adapting current knowledge to improve rehabilitation methods and service delivery systems in the U.S. and overseas;

b. Studying the unique problems associated with the transfer of advanced rehabilitation information, methods and technology across national boundaries; and

c. Developing models for achieving active participation of researchers, consumers, trainees and information specialists in the development and exchange of rehabilitation technology and information between nations.

2. The conduct of a program of rehabilitation training aimed at:

a. Training foreign nationals in rehabilitation related fields at American universities, including fellowship, degree and doctoral programs; and

b. Training U.S. rehabilitation personnel in methods and techniques developed overseas.

3. The conduct of a program of rehabilitation information dissemination and utilization aimed at:

a. Serving as an international rehabilitation information source to existing information centers and as a user-oriented system to respond to requests for international rehabilitation information;

b. Developing a retrieval system to retrieve rehabilitation information available world-wide;

c. Preparing and disseminating reports on high priority, significant international research completed overseas; and

d. Providing dissemination services that promote utilization of international research among specific U.S. and international audiences, including exchange of experts, visiting scholar and work-study exchange programs.

Eligible Applicants

Institutions of higher education with well-established programs of research and training in the pertinent rehabilitation disciplines, especially rehabilitation counseling and special education, and with prior experience in international rehabilitation may apply for this grant provided that the international center program has a separate organizational entity.

Available Funds

The National Institute of Handicapped Research expects to award approximately $450,000 from funds appropriated by Congress for Fiscal Year 1980.

Project Duration

The project will be supported for a period of one to five years. The initial grant sustains the Federal share of the budget for the first year of the project. Support for any additional time remaining in a project period depends on funds available and the grantee's satisfactory performance of the project for which the grant was awarded.

Grantee Share of the Project

Some cost-sharing will be required on the project. The actual percentage of cost sharing will be determined at the time of the award.

Grantees will be reimbursed for Indirect Costs at a maximum rate of 15% of total allowable direct costs.

The Application Process

Application for a grant under the Research and Demonstration Program must be submitted on standard forms provided for this purpose. Application kits which include the forms and other information may be obtained by writing to: National Institute of Handicapped Research, Room 3418, Mary E. Switzer Building, 330 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20201, Attention: 13654–802, Telephone: (202) 245–0797.

Application Submission

The application shall be executed by an individual authorized to act for the applicant agency and to assume for the institution the obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of the grant award, including the regulations for projects on Rehabilitation Research and Demonstrations.

One signed original and three copies of the grant application, including all attachments, are required. The original and two copies are to be submitted to the address provided in the application kit. The other copy is to be submitted concurrently to the cognizant State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. This agency reviews the application and forwards its comments to the Director.

Application Consideration

The Director, NIHR determines the final action to be taken with respect to each grant application for this program.

Applications which are complete and conform to the requirements of this program announcement are subjected to a competitive review and evaluation by qualified peer reviewers outside of Federal employment. The results of the competitive review supplement and assist the Director's consideration of the competing application. The Director's consideration also takes into account the comments of the State agencies of vocational rehabilitation, the HEW Regional Offices, and the headquarters program office. Comments on the applications may also be requested from appropriate specialists and consultants inside and outside the Government.

After the Director has reached a decision to disapprove or not fund a competing application, unsuccessful

applicants are notified in writing of action taken on their application. The successful applicant is notified through the issuance of a Notice of Financial Assistance Awarded which sets forth the amount of funds granted, the terms and conditions of the grant, the budget period for which support is given, the total grantee share expected, and the total period for which project support is contemplated.

Criteria for Review and Evaluation of Applications

The following criteria will be used in reviewing applications submitted under this Announcement.

1. *Plan of Operation.* (45 Points). a. High quality in the design of the project.

b. An effective plan of management that insures proper and efficient administration of the project.

c. A clear description of how the objectives of the project relate to the purpose of the program; and

d. The way the applicant plans to use its resources and personnel to achieve each objective.

2. *Quality of Key Personnel.* (10 Points). a. The qualifications of the project director;

b. The qualifications of each of the other key personnel used in the project;

c. The time that each person referred to in (a) and (b) of this section plans to commit to the project; and

d. The extent to which the applicant, as part of its nondiscriminatory employment practices, encourages applications for employment from persons who are members of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented, such as members of racial or ethnic minority groups, women, handicapped persons, and the elderly.

3. *Budget and Cost Effectiveness.* (5 Points). a. The budget for the project is adequate to support the project activities; and

b. Costs are reasonable in relation to the objectives of the project.

4. *Evaluation Plan.* (5 Points). The plan includes valid and reliable instruments and procedures for assessing and documenting the project results and end products or outcomes in terms of the achievement of project goals and objectives.

5. *Adequacy of Resources.* (5 Points). a. The facilities that the applicant plans to use are adequate; and

b. The equipment and supplies that the applicant plans to use are adequate.

6. *Literature Review.* (3 Points). The literature review is sufficiently comprehensive to:

a. Establish the basis for the problem;

b. Describe the problem in contrast to the symptoms of the problem;

c. Provide a strong conceptual framework for the proposed objectives and proposed plan, including the general design and specific procedures of the proposed plan, along with the management, evaluation, dissemination, and training procedures, when appropriate; and

d. Describe what has been done previously to alleviate the problem and point out the gaps that will be alleviated by this specific proposed work.

7. *International Orientation.* (5 Points). The University affiliated with the Center has a strong international background as evidenced by usual practice in its several colleges and departments.

8. *Graduate Training.* (5 Points). The University has demonstrated an involvement and concern for rehabilitation research and training over an extended period of time with a proven record of graduating both U.S. and foreign students in rehabilitation-related specialties, especially rehabilitation counseling and special education.

9. *Relationships to University Departments.* (10 Points). The Center has linkages with its own College as well as other Colleges and Departments within the University, with State vocational rehabilitation and special education agencies, and with other public and voluntary agencies.

10. *Relationships to International Organizations.* (5 Points). The Center demonstrates experience and potential for continued working relationships with other international rehabilitation organizations (U.S. based or otherwise).

11. *Relationships with Other Universities.* (5 Points). The Center has demonstrated ability and continuing potential for formally involving other universities, domestic and foreign, in the meeting of its objectives.

12. *Clinical Setting.* (2 Points). There are clinical facilities available to the Center where research and exemplary practices from cooperating universities in other countries may be evaluated for pertinence and validity for U.S. utilization.

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications

The Closing date for receipt of applications under this Program Announcement is June 15, 1980. Applications may be mailed or hand delivered. Hand delivered applications will be accepted during regular working hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Late applications will not be accepted and applicants will be notified accordingly. An application will be considered to have arrived by the closing date if:

1. The application was sent by registered or certified mail no later than June 15 as evidenced by the U.S. Postal Service postmark or the original receipt from the U.S. Postal Service, unless the application arrives too late to be considered by the independent review panel.

2. The application is sent by mail and received on or before the closing date in the Office of Human Development Services mailroom as evidenced by the time date stamp or other documentary evidence or receipt maintained by such mailroom, or

3. The application is hand delivered to the office designated to receive the application in the application instructions. Hand delivered applications will be accepted no later than c.o.b. June 15, in any case.

The grantee under this announcement will need to receive the grant as soon as possible to begin operations in a timely manner. Because of this need, the Director has determined under 5 U.S.C. 553 that public comment on the standards in this Announcement would be impracticable and contrary to the public interest.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number: 13.654, Research and Demonstrations)

Dated: April 9, 1980.

Margaret J. Giannini,

Director, National Institute of Handicapped Research.

Approved: April 17, 1980.

Cesar A. Perales,

Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services (Acting).

[FR Doc. 80-12428 Filed 4-22-80; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4110-92-M